

Killing Bill O'Reilly

April 5, 2017

Mr. Murdoch: I am a long-time Fox News viewer.

Please fire Bill O'Reilly.

Thank you,
- Michael A. Blackledge
USNA Class of 1963

April 19th, 2017

Letter as attached signed and mailed today. One of the happiest days in my last ten years of watching Cable News.

Mr. James Murdoch
Chairman and Chief Executive
The News Corporation
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Murdoch:

Thank you, thank you, thank you to you and your brother Lachlan for removing Bill O'Reilly from the Fox News Channel. I realize it was related to brave women coming forward to complain of sexual harassment charges, and I understand that the News Corp in no way has clean hands in this, having covered up those allegations over the years to the tune of \$13 million in hush money. My thanks are generated from more shallow reasons and much more personal: Namely, I could not abide the man and his arrogant demeanor.

My wife can testify as to how often I have yelled at my television screen during the O'Reilly Factor: SHUT UP AND LET HIM SPEAK! Bill O'Reilly's habit of interrupting his guests (with the apparent exception of Charles Krauthammer, who perhaps had made it clear he would not tolerate such disrespectful behavior?) makes him one of the more irritating hosts ever on national television.

Yes, I realize for years he has touted "Number 1 News Show on Cable TV" – and I cannot explain that, other than that time slot on Fox News is 'golden'. If you move a 'true' news show, such as Bret Baier's Special Report, or Martha McCallum into that time slot, it will be most interesting to witness if the audience will remain, or even grow. It will be most pleasant to watch the changes that follow today's announcement.

The only worse use of Bill O'Reilly is when you pressed him into acting as an anchor during a live crisis unfolding; he was obviously well out of his element.

There were only two segments of the O'Reilly Factor that merited my interest: Watters World, and Dennis Miller – neither of which was enhanced by O'Reilly. My wife liked to hear the Factor Memo and see the reaction of the guests – but not the constant harassment and interruptions. Thank you again for ending this man's narcissistic career with Fox News.

Sincerely,

mike.blackledge.com

I've never been able to stand O'Reilly either. Haven't watched in years.

Rob Easterling

Mike:

Great letter! I was thrilled earlier today to see that O'Reilly had been taken off the air. I never watched the show because I found O'Reilly personally disgusting--I only watched him a time or two--once when he interviewed President Obama. I don't know why you and your wife put yourself through such pain to watch the show. Anyway, he is gone and television can only improve.

Dick Jensen

Atta boy, Mike!

Jack Ferrell

Mike,

I agree 100% with your letter..

Dick Blide

Hip,Hip,Hooray! Well said, Michael, as usual! (Funny, too!)

Sheila

'Way to go, Mike! And a letter!

I've never watched him. Actually I've never watched Fox cable.

BTW, the recent news that the Trump administration did not know where the carrier group was is astounding!

To me this is the most frightening display of national security incompetence I've seen from this administration.

Bad, very, very bad.

-Ron

Mike,

Letter did not come through readable. What did it say?

Pete

Atta Boy Mikey- well said!

Kenny G

Great letter Mike! - Pete

Mike,

Your letter is an extreme disappointment to me. Usually I can count on you to research various items correctly.

I believe that he was false accused and while he did frequently dominate conversations. He of all similar persons in a similar positions, stood for the right and moral items.

Listen to others in similar position and if you can find one who stood where I stand and many like me agree.

I am truly sad about your letter.

Barry

Other stuff!

Have completed 5 radiations and start Chemo Monday. I will win this battle against squamous cell cancer in my right groin lymph-node, my two neck lymph-nodes and a couple of spots on my right leg.

Cotton Bowl Queen likes O'Reilly

Bear: Sorry to upset the Howard household with my message re: Bill O'Reilly. You will be pleased to see that my sister Penn (Cotton Bowl Queen, 1958, Rice Institute, living in Los Alamitos, CA) is on your side - see below.

mike.blackledge.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <pwwoods@socal.rr.com>

Date: Fri, Apr 21, 2017 at 5:09 PM

Subject: Re: Killing The O'Reilly Factor

To: Michael Blackledge <mablackledgepicasa@gmail.com>, Michael Blackledge <mike@blackledge.com>

Dear

Mike

Fred and I will miss The O'Reilly Factor. He was "da bomb" with a quick wit and excellent guests.

Fred and I often timed our dinner hour by The O'Reilly Factor where "the spin stops here". As for the "five (5) complaining women" from previous years who were "paid off", I have strong doubts

as to their reliability, verifiability, and authenticity, given Fake News being at its zenith.

The same can be said for President Trump and the 14 complaining women during the presidential campaign. They quickly disappeared since there were no facts to support their claims, no paper trail, no fact checking, no nothing. I rest my case.

The O'Reilly Factor is aptly named "The Factor" for a reason. It requires FACTS. I'm sure that Bill O'Reilly,

even at 68, will miss his unique program, but his severance package from FOX of twenty-five (25) million dollars should be of some comfort. And THAT sum is not fake news. He's chuckling all the way to the bank.

Love, Penn (and Fred)

To: Beautiful lady, Penn, and your dumb brother!

Barry

'Bill O'Reilly Was Murdered in Cold Blood,' Author Says

"Bill O'Reilly was just murdered in cold blood by the liberal media," bestselling author David Horowitz says. His crime?

Horowitz says it's simple: O'Reilly was the most powerful voice in cable television and he treated Trump fairly and criticized the dishonesty of the anti-Trump media.

Horowitz first warned of such attacks in his new runaway bestseller ["Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to Save America."](#)

"Even before he took the oath of office, the press, working with Barack Obama's most loyal aides, decided they were going to do whatever it would take to stop President Trump, and sabotage his administration." Horowitz says.

In **Big Agenda**, Horowitz claims far left groups began funding an effort to use all the levers they could pull — big media, academia, government insiders, Democratic front groups — to stop Trump's conservative plan to drain the swamp and save America.

A key part of the plan, he says, has been to "take out" Trump allies in the media and conservative circles.

"They dredged up years-old, unsubstantiated allegations to torpedo O'Reilly," Horowitz argues, noting that the influential TV host was a voice for honesty in the media and a defender of Donald Trump.

O'Reilly played a key role in helping Trump by speaking directly to white, middle-class voters in places like Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Jonah on O'Reilly

excerpted from this week's 'news'letter:

Of course, I'd occasionally stumble on O'Reilly's show and rubberneck at the spectacle. But I didn't enjoy it. I was never on the show much. I don't enjoy being a meat prop for hosts to make the points they want to make, and I guess it showed the few times I was on. O'Reilly was the master of making his long and often well-crafted statements in the form of a question. "Now, I think . . ." "This is the way I see it . . ." "This is where I come down on this . . ." often preceded a jeremiad that concluded with, "Do you agree?" The answer was merely punctuation for the next "question."

Some people got better treatment -- Dennis Miller, the other Goldberg -- but for the most part guests were there either to serve as a Greek chorus or as ritual human sacrifice for his smartest-guy-at-the-bar routine.

And it worked. Well. People can scoff and roll their eyes, but O'Reilly's talent is impossible to dispute on objective grounds. There are lots of acts I don't like but I can respect for the skill behind them. I don't like hip-hop, or opera for that matter, but I can still see the difference between people who are really good at it and people who aren't. As with the man in *Don Quixote* who could inflate a dog through its butt, one doesn't have to like the show to appreciate the expertise.

I guess what I always resented was the way O'Reilly -- and some of his cheaper knock-offs -- claimed an authority to speak for me.

Also of interest:

[In a Slow-Motion Invasion of the Body Snatchers.](#)

Also of interest: [*The American Jeremiad*](#)